

The Maine Farmer

Agriculture, Mechanics, Arts, Literature, News, &c.

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NO. 15.

The Maine Farmer

S. L. BOARDMAN, Editor.

Our Home, Our Country, and Our Brother Man

Practical Notes for the Month.

The duties of the farmer thicker as the season advances. Something "edged in" by the fitters of winter, he performs the same round of labors day after day with little variation—but as these fitters, as the longer and warmer days of spring come on, he begins to look beyond his barns and farm yards, to take into his mind the fields, pastures, fence and orchard of his estate—with their several conditions and needs; and if he is a shrewd man he already knows what each lot is to be made the coming season, and has his plans laid for bringing about the improvements desired.

The early spring time brings a variation of old duties before it demands the performance of entirely new ones. The stock is still at the barns where it must yet remain for many weeks, but it requires different management from that which it has been having. The best hay—that cut the earliest and cured the best—must be reserved for the working teams at spring time—still, working teams now will need extra care. The coarse fodder has been consumed during the past months, and good hay is now being fed, with it should also be given roots of some kind—perhaps, with potatoes at thirty-five cents per bushel—a good market can be found for generous quantities at the farmer's own cellar—and occasionally a feed of corn and cob meal. In these "frothy March days," the farm stock that has been kept on dry for four months have sluggish appetites, and if they lose in flesh, and become somewhat "run down," it is often hard work—especially if they be calves, young stock or milk cows—to get them over "May hill." But with proper management they may be kept gaining till gives the liberty of the pasture.

Milch cows that are coming in need special care; and the first item in this special care is a box stall. No cow forward with calf should be allowed to run with the other stock, and especially should never be confined at the standish at night. Yet, among good farmers, this absence of cattle boxes about the barns, is one of the most serious wants in their accommodations. The building—not an expensive one by any means—erected the past year by Allen Lambard, Esq., designed in great part for just this purpose, he says is one of the most necessary buildings upon his farm. And there is no farmer who keeps from three to five cows, and who raises that number of calves yearly, but would find a building affording roomy boxes for this number of animals, and for their particular use, to be one of the most handy and indispensable of all the farm out-houses. In addition, milch cows should have good hay, with shorts or meal in reasonable quantity, but over-feeding should be studiously avoided.

The flats—if the business of wool-growing is somewhat depressed—will yet pay for good care. They have always done it and we don't believe the time will ever come when they will not do. But sheep at no period of the foaling season—more especially now, when many of the ewes are heavy with lamb—should have the run of the same yard at the same time with horned cattle. Separate feeding houses and separate yards will be provided by any farmer who keeps sheep as a means of profit—and they can even be kept at a profit. The sheep that are killed during the winter from being hooked or otherwise injured by stock, or that die from disease incurred by over-crowding in consequence of small housing room, would be sufficient, if kept, to pay all the expense of constructing a suitable sheep house, with yard by itself, or of dividing a portion of the east-yard for their special use. Colts may run with a flock of sheep to advantage, and when the cattle are turned up they may be let into the cattle yard to pick over the oats for like reason. Breeding ewes must be placed by themselves where they will have plenty of room; and with good hay, a handful of oats and a few potatos daily, will be in good condition to produce lambs that the butchers will be glad to get next August, at high prices.

We may mention here the best way we have known of restoring warmth to a chilled lamb—some of our readers may, and some may not have known it before. In the bottom of a basket place a heated brick wrapped in cloth. Upon this sprinkle a little clean straw and lay the lamb in the basket. The warmth from the brick is not only constant but is in just the right place, and in a short time a lamb however much chilled by the cold, will be completely revived and in a condition to be placed with its dam.

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With the feeling that March may yet give us some of its genuine blustering days, and that months, perhaps, may pass us "till we plough again"—we may be well up before alluding to dates that belong to spuds-time and bar-ground.

American Potatoes and Corn in England.

Mr. Shirley Hibbert, author of "Rustic Almanacs for Homes of Taste," and editor of the London *Gardener's Magazine*—and a writer not half so well known of this side of the water as he should be—introduces himself to the readers of the *Horticulturalist* for March, as the foreign correspondent of that publication. His letter is a very graceful, and withal, interesting one, and will make the reader anxious to peruse successive communications from his pen. He does some of his experiments with American potatoes, and pop-corn, which had been sent him by American correspondents, concerning which we make an extract that will interest all our readers—

"Not one of our potatoe has the upright, bushy growth of yours. I am not guessing when I say, that for the Stoke Newington collection, composed, only of the Gobies, of the stately Daintree, Pippins, and the like, of the greatest promise, called "American Red." Judging it by its merits, I should say that it renders many hay, straw and corn stalks sweet and palatable; that fodder otherwise wasted would be saved; that by the mixing of different kinds of feed their qualities are all blended together by the digestive power of steam, thus making a better food, the mixing producing a proper balance in their constituents; that the food is more easily digested and digested, thus giving working animals all the time necessary to eat their food in the intervals of labor; that it keeps the animals in better condition, being more lucrative than uncooked or dry food, than it presents the disease among stock which are owned mainly or in part from eating uncooked hay, grain, stalks, &c. (the diseases arising from spores of a species of fungous parasite which has been demonstrated, in many cases, to infect the blood and bile of cattle); that the germinating power of feed seeds is destroyed by steaming, and in consequence, the manure is free from them, hence stock feed is a matter of course, and that the health of all animals is greatly promoted by subsisting upon steamed food. One of the writers in the work to which we have alluded—Mr. E. W. Stewart of Lakeview, New York—figured up the amount that would be saved to our farmers if the system of cooking food for all kinds of farm stock could be universally adopted.

We present his estimates: "Let us suppose that it would save \$3 on each of the next cattle, or \$66,000; \$5 upon each horse and mule, or \$33,700; \$1000; \$2 upon each log, or \$50,000; and \$0 50 upon each sheep, or \$20,000; making in all \$109,700—\$000 as the saving for a single year, and we could get through Alabama difficulties if we could stand on the same platform in the matter of eating and drinking; the practice will make rapid advances among our farmers in the next ten or fifteen years."

We have little doubt, that with the perfect method being introduced for steaming food in large quantities, the practice will make rapid advances among our farmers in the next ten or fifteen years.

The Fish Farm at Alma.

Mr. David C. Pottle of Alma, to whose experiments we have previously made some allusion, is gradually enlarging his operations in trout-breeding, building new ponds, and by each season's experience becoming better acquainted with the ways of his finny flock, and more certain of success in rearing them. Mr. Pottle's ponds are situated in a ravine on the south slope of a rocky hill. A spring of pure water, in unusual volume, gushes out from the hill side and dashes down the ravine, being joined by several smaller springs coming from the banks on either hand. A number of substantial wooden dams thrown across the ravine form ponds in which trout and Salmonidæ of various ages are kept, and prevented from migrating with each other by gratings across the waste-way of each dam. Six of these ponds, varying in size from a thousand square yards to less than a hundred, are already completed and occupied; two or three more are in process of formation; and not far off, on a larger brook, Mr. Pottle has several more of a larger size that can be used when necessary.

The water coming from the large spring is first led through a series of troughs in a small house; in these troughs the fish are hatched from eggs taken and deposited here in October and November, and so warm is the spring that eggs which are laid in October hatch in a week. The warming and Ventilating of Dwelling Houses by Artificial Vapor. By Prof. Chas. M. Wetmore. *American Bee Journal*, Washington, D. C., Sam'l Wagner, \$2.00 per year. [Thoroughly independent and ably edited.]

The April Monthly, \$1.00 per year. Chicago: Jos. H. Cooley.

The Technologist: devoted to engineering, manufacturing and building. New York: 176 Broadway. \$2.00 per year. [A new publication, which gives evidence of becoming a useful work for the class of readers for which it is especially prepared.]

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The water

Augusta, Saturday, March 19, 1870.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

\$2.00 in advance, or \$2.50 if not paid within three months of the date of subscription.
These terms will be rigidly adhered to in all cases.

All payments made by subscribers to the Farmer will be creditable in accordance with our new rating method. The printed date upon the paper, in connection with the subscriber's name, will show the time to which he has paid, and will constitute, in itself, a valid receipt for amounts remitted by him.

If a subscriber desiring to change the post office direction of his paper must communicate to us the name of the office to which it has previously been sent, otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his request.

COLLECTOR'S NOTICE.

Mr. V. DARNELL is now canvassing in Penobscot county. Mr. S. N. TAYLOR will canvass in Kennebec county during the months of January and February.

Mr. L. F. PAUL will call upon subscribers in West Somerset, during the months of January and February.

The Resumption of Specie Payments.

Among the pleasing symptoms of the approaching of our National currency to par value with gold, and the resumption of specie payments, is the fact which we so frequently announced, that in New York, Philadelphia and some of the New England cities many of the merchants have adopted the practice of giving customers their small change in silver coins. It may be regarded perhaps in some sense as a method of advertising for the purpose of attracting custom; but the fact is significant as one of the many indications that the time so long delayed is at hand, when our financial shall be re-established upon a specie basis, and the business of the country shall no longer be at the mercy of Wall street speculators and gamblers.

Gold is gradually but surely on the decline, having reached within the past week its lowest figure since August 1862. True, its fall is interrupted occasionally by the desperate efforts of gold and stock speculators who are not inclined to surrender if they can help it the control they have so remorselessly exercised over the finances of the country. The cause of the rapid decline of the premium on gold is its comparative abundance, and the limited demand for it other than as a circulating medium. It is not wanted abroad, because our exports exceed our imports, and American securities are in demand, and the balance of our indebtedness to foreign countries can be paid with them instead of gold.

The great advance toward specie payments already made without causing any serious derangement of business or distress of any kind, seems to refute the idea so generally and in most cases honestly entertained, that it would be unjust to compel men to pay in specie the debts contracted in a depreciated currency, and therefore, that a return to specie payments must be accompanied by some measure providing for the payment of debts at a discount, proportioned to the premium on gold at the time they were contracted. How untenable such an idea must have been, has been amply demonstrated by the fact that gold has fallen from its highest to its lowest point thus far without producing serious business derangement or distress of any kind in the country.

There has never been a more favorable moment for bringing about the resumption of specie payments, and the event is apparently so near at hand and the business of the country is becoming so easily and naturally adjusted to it, that it will come upon us almost without observation. Therefore it is not best to attempt to hasten it by any special financial expedient, but leave the master to the untrammelled operation of those causes that have been working so favorably hitherto. And if nothing can be done to advantage to hasten this consummation, it is certainly not desirable to place any needless obstacles in the way. The plan proposed, and which has already passed the House of Representatives, of adding fifty millions of greenbacks to check the contraction of the currency, is a foolish if not dangerous experiment. It would have the effect to delay the resumption indefinitely. On the other hand a general expectation of the coming of specie payments, and preparation for it as far as possible, would smooth the way, sustain the public confidence and make the transition easy.

Already the fall of gold is beginning to feel in the markets. Mr. A. T. Stewart, we are told, has reduced the prices of all his goods, and others must follow his lead, though they are the less able to bear the inevitable loss from their diminished receipts and the stagnation of business which a falling market always brings. But business must soon be adjusted to the new conditions, and the more willingly the nation accepts, the less violent will be the inevitable shock.

THE NEW FUNDING BILL. The provisions of the new funding bill which passed the Senate Friday last, contains the following provisions:

The bill authorizes the issue of four hundred millions of consolidated bonds; the first to be ten-forths at five per cent.; the second fifteen-forths at four and one-half per cent., and the third, twenty-forths at four per cent.; the principal and interest to be payable in coin. No bond to be of less denomination than \$100. The bonds to be sold at par, and the interest to be paid in the Treasury. They may be sold for not less than the par value in coin, or exchanged dollar for dollar for existing bonds bearing an equal or higher rate of interest, the proceeds of the bonds sold for coin to be placed in the Treasury for the redemption of the principal and interest of the same.

The Secretary of the Treasury is directed to issue bonds at his discretion not less than \$400,000,000 in twenty-forths, at four per cent., provided the aggregate debt is not thereby increased.

Each four cents bonds to be taxed at one-half tax, federal, State, municipal or local.

Section six appropriates \$1,000,000 annually from the revenue for the payment of expenses of the revision of the principal and interest debt.

The bonds in the present sinking fund, and those heretofore purchased, are to be cancelled and destroyed, and a record of such destruction to be kept and reported monthly and annually.

The seventh section requires that National Banks, shall on or before October the 1st, 1870, deposit with the Treasurer of the United States registered bonds, of not less denomination than one thousand dollars, issued under this act, and no others shall be received or circulated and for exchange within one year from the passage of this act. The bonds shall be held until their maturity, or until shall become entitled to receive for those issued under this act, on pain of the forfeiture of their circulation, and return to them of the bonds deposited as security. It is provided that any bank now in existence may upon paying thirty days' notice to the Comptroller of the currency, deposit bonds equivalent to the amount of their circulation and take up the bonds pledged for its redemption. And it is provided further that not more than one-third of the bonds deposited by any bank as such security shall be of either of the classes of bonds on which the rate of interest shall be four and a half or five per cent.

The eighth section allows the amount of circulating notes issued to each bank to equal but not exceed 90 per cent. of the par value of the bonds deposited.

The ninth allows banks to organize and do business on a capital of \$50,000.

A temperance organization was formed in East Winthrop on Monday evening, 7th inst. Sullivan Kilbreth, Esq., president, and remarks were made by Rev. A. Bryant, L. H. Snell, Charles Keeler and N. R. Pike, Esq. The temperance pledge was circulated, and a large number of signatures obtained. At a subsequent meeting held on Saturday evening, 12th inst., the organization was completed by the adoption of a constitution and by-laws and the election of officers.

A delegation of the children of the Orphan's Home in Bath, gave an entertainment, consisting of singing, recitations, &c., in the Representatives Hall in this city on Tuesday evening last. The exhibition was calculated in the strongest degree to enlist the sympathy of all who witnessed it in behalf of an institution which is doing so good and charitable work for the orphan children of the soldiers who have given their lives for their country.

At a meeting of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, held in New York on Wednesday last, the following officers were elected: J. Gregory Smith, of St. Albans, Vt., President; Richard D. Rice, of Augusta, Vice-President; A. H. Barney, of New York, Treasurer; and Samuel Wilkinson, of New York, Secretary.

THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION. The election for city officers was held on Monday last. Very little interest seemed to be manifested in the result, and the vote was unusually light. Hon. Samuel Thorne, the republican candidate, was re-elected Mayor by a majority of 678, and Hon. H. W. True, Municipal Judge, by a majority of 434. The candidate nominated by a "citizen's caucus" so called, were Hon. J. W. North for Mayor, and Hon. Daniel Williams, Judge. Mr. North publicly declined the nomination, which was made without his consent or knowledge. The following is the vote for Mayor and Municipal Judge:

	Mayors.	Mun. Judges.
Thorne,	163	83
" 2,	131	28
3,	115	26
4,	88	18
5,	83	11
6,	54	25
	691	553
Whole number of votes cast 804.		

In the several Wards the republican candidate for Alderman, Common Council and Ward officers were elected as follows:

	Ward 1.	Ward 4.
Alderman.	George W. Perry,	Councilmen.
Councilmen.	George E. Weeks,	Eliakim Miller,
Eliza Atkins,	Asa Townsend,	James N. Wade,
Warden.	Oliver C. Smith,	William Stiles,
Ward Clerk.	Augustus L. Smith,	Ward Clerk.
Constable.	David C. Stone,	Joseph B. Hopkins,
WARD 2.	Alderman.	Daniel C. Conant,
John Baker,	Councilmen.	F. H. Chadwick,
Russell Eston,	Anthony,	William W. Clark,
Nathaniel W. Cole,	Warden.	Samuel H. Parsons,
Warden.	John S. Turner,	Ward Clerk.
Silas W. Wyman,	Constable.	Joseph F. Ganett,
Edmund W. Getchell,	Warden.	Wilson B. Leighton,
Alderman.	Amasa B. Hopkins,	Ward 6.
Councilmen.	Alfred A. Conant,	Alderman.
E. H. Chadwick,	F. H. Chadwick,	John Wilder,
Warden.	William C. Longfellow,	Councilmen.
John S. Turner,	Warden.	Elijah McFarland,
Ward Clerk.	Joseph H. Parsons,	J. A. Chadwick,
Constable.	Levi W. Wall,	Warden.
Levi Wicks,	Constable.	J. M. Potter,
Charles C. Stone,	Levi Wicks,	Ward Clerk.
WARD 7.	Alderman.	Benjamin Gardner.
John M. Cross,	Councilmen.	John M. Cross,
R. B. Worthley,	H. J. Dudley,	Levi Ward,
W. H. Smith,	Ward Clerk.	W. H. Smith,
Levi Wicks,	Constable.	Levi Wicks.

THE CITY OF BOSTON. No reliable tidings have been received in regard to the missing steamer, City of Boston, Captain Meady, of the ship Silvania Blanchard, which arrived at Queenstown, Ireland, on the 9th of March, reports having encountered easterly winds off the English coast for forty days previous to her arrival. The long continuance of these easterly winds on the other side of the Atlantic may be considered favorable to the hope entertained for the safety of the missing steamer, on the supposition that she is disabled in her machinery and is wholly dependent upon what chance she can spread. The captain of the Bremen steamer Saale, which arrived at New York Friday, reports that off the Azores, about the first of February, a large three-decker steamer was seen. It was a dark, stormy night, and he was unable to make out more than that she was steering E. N. E.

P. S. Just as we go to press the following despatch was received announcing the safe arrival of the missing steamer at Q. sington:

New York, March 16. The steamer City of Boston arrived at Queenstown on one o'clock this morning after a passage of 47 days from this city and 44 from Halifax. No particulars of the cause of her detention have yet been received.

The remaining sections of the P. & K. Railroad Bridge, a portion of which was carried away by the great freshet, have been taken down by the workmen preparatory to the reconstruction of the bridge.

We learn that the Directors have decided to rebuild the bridge of iron, and have contracted with Messrs. Kellogg, Clarke & Co. of Philadelphia, Pa., who will furnish a substantial "Pratt Truss" bridge and complete it for about \$83,000. The cost of repairing piers and carrying them up about ten or twelve feet higher, and completing the approach to the bridge, will be about \$20,000 additional. Mr. George M. Patten of Bath, one of the Directors, who has made inquiry into the cost of a new bridge, a portion of which was to be of less than one-half the original cost, has been advised that the cost of a new bridge will be about \$100,000.

It is to be hoped that the new bridge will be completed in time to meet the demands of the season.

THE ADVENTURES OF CALEB WILLIAMS, is one of

the books which the Byron controversy has brought to the notice of the reading public. The author of this volume is well known as the editor of "Hall's Journal of Health," into which he has reproduced many of the articles that have appeared in the paper which he edits. He believes that high health can be maintained, and common diseases cured by good living, which he defines as "eating with a relish the best food, prepared in the best manner." As there can be no good living without money and without price," The book is one of some practical value, but has no scientific merit. Our copy has been forwarded us through Clapp & North, the publishers, who have it on sale.

THE ALMANAC FOR THE YEAR 1870. "Nulla dies sine linea." New York: Hard & Houghton, 1870. \$00 pp. 205. Price \$2.00.

A new publication which is designed to issue annually, and one containing a mass of valuable information for the profession. We notice, especially, valuable articles on "The Courts and Bar of England and France," "The Supreme Court of the United States," and the "Office of Attorney General of the United States," with biographical sketches of those who have been appointed to that office. For sale in this city by Clapp & North.

LOVE SONGS, and other Poems. By Mary Ainge Davis. New York: Fifth Avenue Publishing Company, 1870. 16 mo., \$1.00. Price \$1.00.

A dainty volume of pretty poems, telling the defects of the first efforts at versifying; and yet giving evidence of much promise. They are smoothly written, and if not sufficient merit be staidly praised, cannot, on the other hand be severely criticized.

The book can be obtained at any bookstore or will be forwarded by mail, post paid on receipt of price.

NEW TEXT BOOKS. The Harpers (New York) have just added to their already long list of valuable text books, two volumes which will be welcomed by all teachers and pupils in our colleges and higher institutions which essentially changed its original character, making it undesirable for the purpose for which legislation was aimed, and it being manifest that the sentiments of the present legislation are opposed to the welfare of the people. The first is a "German Course," by Prof. G. F. Confort of the Alleghany College, Penn., in which the author has incorporated the most advanced views and principles of linguistic instruction, as held by the best writers upon philosophy, and the best practical educators in Europe and America. It consists of four parts, embracing elementary lessons, familiar conversations, a complete grammar, and valuable tables of German moneys, weights, measures, &c. The second is an edition of the comedies of T. Macci Plauti, by Prof. C. S. Harrington of the Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn. It contains but three of the author's comedies—generally believed to be his best productions—which are recommended as sound in moral and didactic sense, and are recommended as suitable for the study of Latin and Greek literature.

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